



# CONTACT



Magazine for and about the Air Force Reservists assigned  
to the 349th Air Mobility Wing, Travis Air Force Base, California

Vol. 26, No. 10

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**Add one, subtract two:** The 349th Air Mobility Wing Financial Management office is now offering an educational travel voucher briefing on Sunday of each unit training assembly at 10 a.m. in the Wing Conference Room in Bldg. 228. Master Sgt. Kimberly Williams, Financial Management Technician, 349th AMW, shows members how to properly fill out the voucher checklist. Incomplete or incorrect vouchers are being rejected, which can mean a delay in payment to the member and possibly an unpaid travel card. For more information about the travel voucher process, please call the 60th Comptroller Squadron at (707) 424-8359, Monday-Friday, or the 349th FM Office at (707) 424-1684 on UTA weekends.



Cover photo by Staff Sgt. Meredith Mingledorff  
349th Public Affairs



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# Be counted - voting's your right

The military vote, is one of the most sought after voting groups in the 2008 presidential election. Our Air Force community is infused with Airman, men and women of all backgrounds who are both powerful and responsible. Voting is a powerful action! Voting is being responsible! Be powerful and responsible and vote.

Why vote? Anne Freeman of the University of Minnesota News asked this question. Vote because first and foremost it's your civil right, and for many a long fought for privilege. Hard-won for women, African Americans, and other citizens, as well as the foundation of our democracy. Secondly, we just talked about the power of your vote, millions of people around the world have no say in who governs them, so don't squander or take for granted your own power. A third reason to get out and vote is, in both the 2000 and 2004 presidential elections, they were too close to clearly call until days after the polls closed. For example, the 2000 presidential candidate won by just 537 votes. As reported by the Washington Post Oct. 30, 2004, "a change of only 269 votes from Bush to Gore would have resulted in a victory for Gore in the Florida popular vote and amounted to another 25 electoral votes." Current polls indicate that the upcoming election could be even closer, so your single vote will count to support your candidate or party of choice, more

importantly your position on issues that matter most to you will be represented.

Still not sure why you should vote? The Supreme Court is also a factor, as the next president may have the opportunity to appoint Supreme Court justices, shaping the decision-making of the nation's highest court for years to come. And state and local races for school boards, governors, county commissioners, and state representatives will be held across the country, and many of these races will be 'squeakers' as well.

This year's events appear to be drawing a record number of first time voters. The race is fluid, one-in-four voters are undecided or say they might change their minds. Voters age 18 to 29 rate among those with the highest level of election enthusiasm, based on a USA Today recent Gallup poll. This is the same age group being mentored to be our future leadership, right now if they vote today, they will be selecting their next boss, the Commander and Chief of our military.

What are the issues? War; local economy; global relations; international economy; healthcare; education; social security benefits; environment; energy; tax policy; veterans benefits; military budget; military draw down; campaign finance reform; housing market; gas prices; civil liberties and Roe vs Wade. Anything on this list effect you or someone you know? The only one who can silence your voice



**By Command Chief Master Sgt.  
Christine A. Taylor**

on any of these issues is you - by not voting. Once every four years we, as individual citizens, get to be part of the most important job interview in the United States, we hire and fire with our vote the President of these United States and the Commander in Chief of our military. Vote based on the issues that are most important to you.

When does the election take place? Nov. 4 is the general election for the presidential candidate. The California registration deadline is October 20. You must be registered no later than this date to vote in the November election.

How do you register or find out if you are registered? For information and a guide to helpful links, go to [www.justvote.org](http://www.justvote.org). To verify if you are registered, you can call 1(800) 345-Vote.

You can get an absentee ballot application in English, Spanish and other languages online or at your local post office or for military overseas, you can get information at [www.sos.ca.gov/elections](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections).

This is said to be the most historic race  
(See Vote on Page 5)

# Public Displays of Anger - rarely beneficial

**by Chaplain (Maj.) LeBane S. Hall  
349th Air Mobility Wing**

Everybody has heard of this PDA: Public Display of Affection. I rarely enjoy seeing people do this in public. I completely understand it happening when military members come back from a deployment and are met at the airport by their loved ones. I understand it when members of the family are rescued after a harrowing ordeal. I also understand it when the minister is telling the two people they are now married and it is time to kiss. In most other cases, I do not want to have to view it.

Now this PDA: Public Display of Anger are rarely discussed, but just as visible in our world, maybe even more so.

The other day, my co-worker was in a major department store. She heard a terrible racket and found a women screaming at another woman. The reason for the emotional response between the two women was unknown. My co-worker went to the woman who was yelled at after it was over and just tried to be nice to her. She wanted to show her that even though she was feeling humiliated, it was OK.

Oddly, two days later I was in a different department store and the same thing happened. I never even saw the woman yelling, but I could hear her. When it was over, I saw a little boy riding in a cart with his mom. He was asking his mom why the other woman was so mad? Did that woman's kids do something wrong? Were



the other kids OK? Why would she scream like that in a department store? The mom just tried to answer as quietly and succinctly as possible with an obvious look of disgust on her face.

I do not think yelling benefited the two angry women at all. Public Displays of Anger rarely do. I can think of a few examples of understandable public anger. A mother yells at someone trying to hurt her child. In Scripture, Jesus yelled at the money changers as they had turned the Church into a den of thieves. A coach could yell to inspire his/her players to perform at a higher level to bring about a victory. A platoon leader can yell to move troops into the right position. Too many times we yell at our spouses because we

(See PDA on Page 5)

# CSAF defers heritage coat decision, focuses on current uniform issues

by Master Sgt. Russel P. Petcoff  
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton A. Schwartz decided to defer a decision on the Air Force heritage coat until the summer of 2009 to address current uniform issues, according to a senior Air Force official.

"We are going to fix, improve and upgrade uniforms in our current inventory," said Lt. Gen. Richard Y. Newton III, Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services.

The goal is to provide the best uniform and equipment to Airmen in order to allow them to best carry out their mission, he said.

The decision came as part of the senior leader strategic summit at Bolling Air Force Base, D.C.

The service's top enlisted Airman applauded the decision.

"Our Airmen spend their hard-earned money on these uniforms, and we owe it to them to do the research, development and quality assurance necessary to guarantee every uniform item put on the shelf is right the first time," said Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley.

"We don't want to have to come back and fix something we've already fielded. I'm confident our efforts to improve physical training uniforms, the Airman Battle Uniform and ABU boots will yield satisfactory results," he said.

General Newton said making changes will take time.

"We continue to strive to provide our Airmen uniforms that are functional and practical all the while exuding the sense of pride that our Airmen have serving this great nation and our Air Force," General Newton said.

A few of the uniform concerns the service will look at are a lighter-weight ABU for hot-weather climates, better-fitting PT clothing and a quieter material for the warm-up jacket and pants, General Newton said.

ABU boots are another uniform item the Air Force wants to get right. General Newton said the quality of boots is important to today's expeditionary Air

Force and for the future.

Airmen are being tasked to do jobs that are different than previous missions required in years gone by, General Newton said.

The Air Force recently certified another manufacturer for ABU boots, said Ruth Ewalt, chief of Air Force Uniform Programs and Policy. Before certifying the company, Air Force officials considered the company's more than 40-year history of manufacturing boots, and that it had produced several types of boots for the Army and Navy.

"Our acceptance of their product was also a result of positive feedback collected after extended wear by male and female cadets at the Air Force Academy," Ms. Ewalt said.

Issues considered by Air Force officials included blistering, contusions, sprains, swelling and general pain that may have been associated with the boots, she said.

"The boots are manufactured in sizes for both genders and will be issued to new basic trainees beginning no later than Oct. 1," Ms. Ewalt said.

"As a result of feedback from individuals in industrial environments —

such as our aircraft maintainers and fuels experts — new stain-resistant materials are being tested for our boots," Ms. Ewalt said. "Once a new material is selected, boots made with that new material will not be available for approximately two years."

General Newton said the Air Force has listened to the uniform concerns of its Airmen. It recently conducted the first-ever virtual uniform board.

The board considered 109 initiatives out of more than 900 received, many of which were duplications or already in the process of being resolved, Ms. Ewalt said. Others did not meet the criteria because no substantive solutions were provided.

The intent of the virtual uniform board is for Airmen to identify a problem and suggest an improvement, Ms. Ewalt said.

"Unlike an open forum board, it's an avenue to voice an input and recommend a solution to resolve the issue," Ms. Ewalt said. "It is an opportunity for everyone wearing the uniform to bring well thought out and substantive issues — along with solid recommendations to resolve those issues — to the attention of Air Force senior leadership."

No one knows better than Airmen serving today what uniform changes are needed, General Newton said.

"We heard the feedback from the field and will continue to do so," General Newton said.

Airmen can provide uniform recommendations by going to the Air Force IDEA Program Web site at [https://ipds.csd.disa.mil/IPDS/landing\\_page](https://ipds.csd.disa.mil/IPDS/landing_page), Ms. Ewalt said. Airmen can access uniform information at the Air Force Portal, [www.my.af.mil](http://www.my.af.mil) and typing in "uniform" in the search box in the page's upper right-hand corner.

The heritage coat wear test will continue until its scheduled Oct. 31 completion date. Air Force experts will then analyze wear test results and provide General Schwartz a comprehensive package on which to base his decision next year. There are 240 Airmen currently participating in wear tests at Maxwell AFB, Ala.; San Antonio; the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.; and the Pentagon, Ms. Ewalt said.

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**"Our Airmen spend their hard-earned money on these uniforms, and we owe it to them to do the research, development and quality assurance necessary to guarantee every uniform item put on the shelf is right the first time."**

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**-Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley**

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# Optical Center prices offered online

**W**ith more than 166 locations across the world, National Guard and Reserve, retiree and active-duty military families know they can depend on exchange Optical Shops and Vision Centers for affordable, quality eye wear, regardless of where they're called to serve. But what about those authorized shoppers who don't live near a military installation?

The answer to this question, one that has challenged military and civilian leadership for more than a decade, is coming into focus with the addition of two new partner web sites on the Exchange Online Mall at [aafes.com](http://aafes.com), [usmc-mccs.org](http://usmc-mccs.org), [navy-nex.com](http://navy-nex.com) and [cg-exchange.com](http://cg-exchange.com).

Authorized shoppers who click on the new "Glasses & Contacts" link now have access to the prices comparable to those found in the exchanges' brick-and-mortar Optical Shops and Vision Centers through [FramesDirect.com](http://FramesDirect.com) and [MilitaryContacts.net](http://MilitaryContacts.net).

"These sites have been set up to offer the same opening price points exchange

shoppers find at our Optical Shops and Vision Center facilities on military installations," said the Army & Air Force Exchange Service's Director of Professional Services Lt. Col. (Dr.) Ric Peterson "Their inclusion on the Exchange Online Mall solves some long-standing issues by delivering the eye wear benefit the exchanges provide worldwide right to authorized shoppers front door. Now, any beneficiary can take advantage of internet access, low prices and high-quality eye wear found at our facilities without even leaving the house. This service is especially important to those in remote and/or isolated sites and without access to traditional exchange facilities."

With single vision eyeglasses starting at just \$39, [FramesDirect.com](http://FramesDirect.com)'s Exchange Online Mall site features some 50,000 prescription frame styles and 8,000 sunglasses from more than 200 brands, all discounted 10-30 percent with free shipping. The site also helps ensure glasses aren't just affordable, but also



stylish thanks to a feature that allows troops and their Families to upload pictures and virtually try on different frame styles.

[MilitaryContacts.net](http://MilitaryContacts.net) is also doing its part to bring exchange savings home by delivering exclusive "military only" pricing for contacts ordered through the Exchange Online Store. The savings this site offers, up to 30 percent less than the leading mail order contact lens provider, even extends to shipping costs as orders of \$50 dollars or more always receive free shipping.

"Ordering from either site couldn't be easier," said AAFES Merchandise Manager Don Walker. "Shoppers can e-mail or fax their prescription or even just provide their eye doctor's name and phone number and if the prescription is on file, the sites will validate and fill the order."

Authorized customers can log onto their Exchange Online Store at [aafes.com](http://aafes.com), [usmc-mccs.org](http://usmc-mccs.org), [navy-nex.com](http://navy-nex.com) or [cg-exchange.com](http://cg-exchange.com) and click the Exchange Mall logo or access the site directly by logging onto [www.exchangeonlinemall.com](http://www.exchangeonlinemall.com).

## PDA...

(Continued from Page 3)

think they will listen better or accept what we say loudly as fact instead of when we said the words normally. Too many times we yell at our children because they have done something that scared us and our own emotions are not being controlled properly. Maybe we yell just to try to improve our stature against the other person. "We are right and they are wrong and I am going to make them believe it."

But for most of us, yelling is just a means of verbally abusing the other person. We do not hit them or physically injure them, but they are abused just the same. My two examples of women in the department stores are classic cases of verbal abuse. If you are guilty of this, then you probably have felt the shame and guilt afterward and may have even apologized. If it has happened more than once, then you are encouraged to seek assistance from someone. Chaplains, Family Readiness Office and Mental Health are available to assist in this endeavor.

Affection is best expressed to your loved one in private. However, anger is best expressed when controlled, face to face and without personal attack.

Angry people are often angry at more than just the circumstances of the moment. However, once you know that you are one of the angry people, you can find help and solace in God, God's Word and in others.

May the peace of God that passes all understanding be in your heart and mind. God's blessings to you and your family!

## Vote...

(Continued from Page 3)

ever due to the race and gender of the candidates. One is an African American male seeking the presidency, and the other is a female running for vice president. Well for all the excitement this has stirred up, it is not new. You might say it was Jesse Jackson or Al Sharpton, or the first female candidacy might be Hillary Clinton or Geraldine Ferraro or even Shirley Chisholm. But the very first women to be on a presidential ticket and win her party's choice in the primaries was Victoria Woodhull in 1872 - almost 50 years before women could vote! The first African American to be on a national ticket, as the vice presidential candidate, was Frederick Douglas also in 1872 - two years after blacks were ratified by congress with the right for some blacks to vote, not until 1963 was that right enforced. If you noticed both firsts were in 1872. Yes that means that both Victoria Woodhull and Frederick Douglass were on the same ticket! Controversial, ground breaking and historic. So, 136 years later we are still excited and looking for a first.

Educate yourself on the issues, choose a candidate and be responsible by exercising your right to vote and treating it as a privilege.

If you want additional information on how to register or the deadline in your state, contact your unit voting assistance officer or the 349th Wing Voting Assistance Officer, Lt. Col. Wil Link, at (707) 424-4783 or email at [wilfried.link@travis.af.mil](mailto:wilfried.link@travis.af.mil).

# A peek into the desert deployment

**Story and photo by**  
**Master Sgt. Bill D. Hobbs**  
**45th Aerial Port Squadron**

**H**ello from Joint Base Balad, Iraq, previously known as Balad Air Base to the Air Force, logistics support area, Anaconda or Camp Anaconda to the Army.

I wanted to take some time out and share with you some of my day-to-day experiences while being deployed to the desert.

The day time temperature high is between 100 to 120 degrees, with the night time low being between 70 and 90 degrees. Dust storms a couple of times a week, some lasting over six hours. There was some light rain one day, but the evidence was gone an hour later.

I live in a room about ten by twelve feet, part of a three room pre-fab unit in one of the housing areas. When I say room, I mean a single room, not rooms. There is no closet or attached toilet; the other two rooms in the pre-fab are living quarters for other members. The room has two sets of bunk beds, two wardrobe/lockers, a night-stand, a rug, a desk-lamp, a mirror, a fire extinguisher, and the all important air conditioner. There are normally two to a room like this one, during rotation there may be four to a room during the overlap. Right now I don't have a roommate, so there's no one to blame the mess on except that guy in the mirror. Toilets are outside in another pre-fab, showers in a third pre-fab, both a one to two minute walk -- yep, your basic outdoor plumbing. The dining facilities (called DFACs) serve four meals a day. A new DFAC will be opening soon that will be open 24 hours a day. The food is good and varied. The portions are large, and, if I wasn't working so hard, I could gain a few pounds.

I have two uniforms that I can wear, the ABU when I'm at work, and my PT uniform when I'm "relaxing". No civilian clothes allowed. I wear a 40-pound ceramic armor vest and helmet to and from work. I have to be able to don this gear within ten minutes of an attack warning. One time I

just about knocked myself out when I was dragging the vest off the top bunk and the front armor flap came around and cracked me upside the head. I was seeing stars for a few moments. Blasted thing is dangerous!

My job is to load and unload cargo and move passengers to and from aircraft, job title aerial porter, code 2T2x1. We handle Air Force C-130, C-17, and C-5 aircraft, also Russian Ilyushin IL-76 and Antonov An-124 cargo aircraft and other commercial aircraft. Most of our cargo is palletized, but we also handle a lot of rolling stock (vehicles and trailers) that have to be chained to the aircraft floor. A 7,000 pound

HMMWV can be secured with two 25,000 pound capacity chains forward and two aft. A 45,000 pound STRYKER may need six chains at each end and four in the middle to make the loadmaster happy. The reason for all the chains is that if the aircraft has to make evasive maneuvers, there may be two or three gravities of force on the cargo and it can put a real crimp in the aircrew's day if something comes loose. Also, it will usually be an even number of chains as they are put along the sides of the vehicle to provide side-to-side restraint along with the fore-aft and upward restraint. I'm working midnight to noon shift, six days on with one day off.

We're not allowed off base, so one finds their entertainment where they can. Some spend their free time at the gym, others are playing cards, swimming

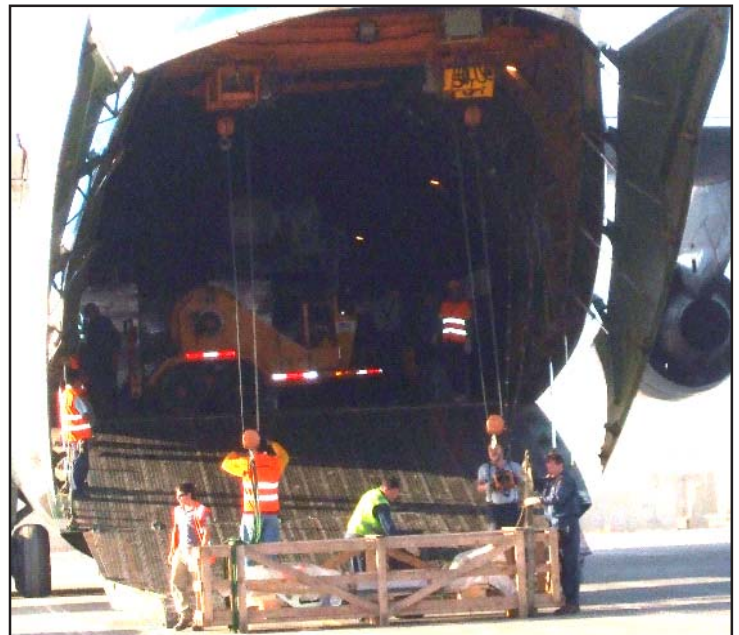
at the pool, watching movies at the theater or on their computer, etc.. When I'm not working, I'm reading a book, calling home, working out at the gym a few times a week, but mostly sleeping.

I drink about six to eight liters of water at work. The hospital said that their number one preventable injury is kidney stones caused by not drinking enough water. Our hospital is the best in region. If wounded enter with a pulse, I believe there's better than a 95 percent chance they will leave with a stronger pulse.

One of the things I miss is a real Internet connection. I can use work computers for web-mail and other services, but I've got about 50 MB of e-mail that I need to download and some updates I have to apply to my laptop.

Thank you to all who mailed stuff to me. Everyone gets packages, what someone can't use, they put out in the common area and someone else makes use of it. You can be assured that if I didn't use your contribution, some other Airman did.

*(PA note: This article was originally written for the 2008 July issue of the Promenader, a square and round dance publication for the Central California Square Dance Association, of which Master Sgt. Hobbs is the editor. The Promenader is a mail circulation of about 210*



A deployed crew loads an Antonov An-124 Ruslan, a large capacity payload cargo aircraft with a crane. The aircraft is based on the An-124 Ruslan military transport in service in the Russian Army, which has the NATO reporting name *Condor*.

# Message of “Family First” rings true with 349th Maintenance Group

by Capt. Dong H. Lim

349th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

The ‘08 Maintenance Group Family Picnic event spanned the entire day encompassing an informative Spouses’ Conference, interactive Kids’ Boot Camp, and competitive Unit Fitness Challenge.

The event brought together the entire maintenance group, their families, alumni, and even included local community and support services folks that came bearing generous donations. The event was a prime example of the 349th Air Mobility Wing aspirations to put “Family First.”

The Spouses’ Conference kicked off the day and was spearheaded by Mrs. Marcy Anholt, spouse of the group’s commander, Col. William Anholt. Vital information was provided to guide spouse toward services available, contact numbers, and sense of family. The 349th wing commander, Col. Maryanne Miller, also took time out of her busy schedule to address the group.

“The ‘08 Maintenance Group Spouses’ Conference was a great success” said Mrs. Anholt. “We were able to give out a lot of information about the benefits to the spouse and family of having a reservist in the group. I really enjoyed meeting with the 45 spouses and hearing their personal stories,” she said.

Command Chief Master Sgt. Christine Taylor also spoke on the importance of family and what the role and responsibilities of a first sergeant.

“I came away with the realization that most spouses feel isolated in their community because, unlike active duty where everyone lives on base,” Mrs. Anholt continued. “We don’t have a network of folks like us who are married to a reservist who is frequently off doing their military job.”

The children started their day bright and early by participating in the Kids’ Boot Camp. Kids mastered an obstacle course, learned drills and ceremonies, tossed bean bag grenades, learned marksmanship with marshmallow target practice, and a photo shoot while obtaining competency cards of each event. The security forces squadron provided a demonstration by the

canine unit.

Tyler Vannostrand, age 11, enjoys some chicken during the 349th Maintenance Group’s family picnic.

“I am really having a good time,” said Tyler. “Combat Kids Boot Camp was cool too, and the marshmallow shooting was my favorite part! I can’t wait to come again next year!”

The day’s event included Air Force’s Fit to Fight event called the Unit Fitness Challenge. Each squadron entered a competition of running, push-ups, and sit ups. The overall winning squadron was the 349th Component Maintenance Squadron.

The 349th MXG Picnic Day culminated with a Family Picnic at Johnson Field. Fun, intramural competition between the squadrons for the Commander’s Trophy and a Chili Cook-Off were some of the highlighted events. Some of the guests include the Falconer, Family Readiness, Fire Fighters, and of course 349th MXG alumni. The event started with the singing of the National Anthem by Amy Marler, niece of Master Sgt. James Standley. The invocation was spoken by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gregory Stringer and then a brief family message from both the 349th wing leadership.

The message of “Family First” rings



photo by Staff Sgt. Meredith Mingledorff, 349th Public Affairs

Col. Bill Anholt, 349th Maintenance Group commander and Chief Master Sgt. Christine Taylor listen to remarks during the 349th MXG family picnic Aug. 23. The day’s events included a Family Picnic along with an informative Spouses’ Conference, interactive Kids’ Boot Camp, and competitive Unit Fitness Challenge.

truer than ever for the members of the 349th MXG group, those deployed and still activated working side-by-side with the 60th MXG. We fight the war on global war on terrorism while remembering our brothers’ in arm throughout the world keeping us safe. The day’s events culminated in a huge cookout and kids’ carnival. Wing members are encouraged to attend all squadron functions, barbecues, picnics, holiday parties, retirements and celebrations whenever possible. If we all come to some of these events, we can find out that the 349th MXG can be our second family too.

# Halloween safety tips - supervision is essential

Trick or Treating should be one of the great adventures of Halloween for kids! They can get dressed in scary costumes and go door to door, begging “Tricks or Treats!” from neighbors or at the local mall. It should be a fun time, without trouble and pain. With witches, goblins, and super-heroes descending on neighborhoods across America, heed these safety tips and prepare your children for a safe and enjoyable trick-or-treat holiday:



Help your child pick out or make a costume that will be safe. Make it fire proof, the eye holes should be large enough for good peripheral vision. Use face paint rather than masks or things that will cover their eyes. Dress them in light-colored or reflective-type clothing so they are more visible. (And remember to put reflective tape on bikes, skateboards, and brooms, too!)



Young children should go out during daylight hours only or be accompanied by a responsible adult. Younger children should never be allowed to go out alone, make sure an older sibling or an adult accompany them at all times.



Treating your kids to a spooky Halloween dinner will make them less likely to eat the candy they collect before you have a chance to check it for them. Instruct your child not to eat any treats until they bring them home to be examined by you.



Teaching your kids basic everyday safety such as not getting into cars or talking to strangers, watching both ways before crossing streets and crossing when the lights tell you to, will help make them safer when they are out Trick or Treating.



Make sure your child carries a flashlight, glow stick or has reflective tape on their costume to make them more visible to cars.

Let them know that they should stay together as a group if going out to Trick or Treat without an adult.



Visit homes that have the porch light on. Stop only at familiar houses in your own neighborhood unless they are accompanied by an adult. Remind them to accept their treats at the door and never go into a stranger's house.



Plan a safe route so parents know where their older children will be at all times. Set a time for their return home. Make sure that your child is old enough and responsible enough to go out by themselves and have them take a cell phone and carry a flashlight.



Let your child know not to cut through back alleys and fields. Make sure they know to stay in populated places and don't go off the beaten track. Stay in well lighted areas.

If you would like more information on Halloween safety tips visit the Food and Drug Administration Safety Tips: [www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/kids/candyandtreats](http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/kids/candyandtreats).

## Maintenance Group Annual Award Winners for 2008

Senior Noncommissioned Officer: **Master Sgt. Kevin Fejarang**, 349th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Noncommissioned Officer: **Staff Sgt. James Prescott**, 945th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Airman: **Senior Airman Autumn Ohlendorf**, 749th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

# How are you preparing for the ORI?



Staff Sgt. Danielle Williams – Chaplain's Assistant, 349th Wing Chaplain's Office

**"I don't know what my involvement will be, but I'm getting ready by completing all the necessary training. I've already completed survival, evasion, resistance and escape training and I'm looking forward to the ORI."**

**"I have the privilege of helping the entire Wing staff prepare for the ORI, so I'm focusing on their deployment readiness."**



Lt. Col. Wil Link – Wing Process Manager – 349th Wing Performance Management



Master Sgt. Freddie Flemming – Safety Specialist – 349th Wing Safety Office

**"Right now we are performing in-shop briefings, reading information and reviewing past ORI information and past in-house training."**

**"As a team member and team lead, it is important to get different training setup. PERSCO training is a big part of in-house training now."**



Master Sgt. James Miller – Chief of Customer Support, 349th Mission Support Squadron



Chief Master Sgt. Roxie Walker-Jones – Medical Squadron Manager, 349th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

**"Our involvement with the ORI requires pre-screening all participants and reviewing records for medical compliance as the process through the line. We usually receive the names ahead of time which allows us to prepare and still support all the wing activities."**

# Mentoring - making a better Reserve

by Lt. Col. Rob Kalteis  
349th Operations Support Flight

Mentoring happens every day in today's Air Force Reserve. Without fail, Airmen are tasked to perform at high ops tempo with minimum tolerance for error - sometimes with only minimal instruction or basic technical education. We rely on those with "know-how" to teach the newly-minted arrivals the safe, efficient, and correct methods to get the job done. More importantly, they need to get a jump on what will be required at the next level of responsibility. Recognizing this reality, the Air Force has mandated that unit commanders maintain an accountable, formal mentoring program that defines purpose, structure, benefits, goals and resources available.

The primary purpose of any mentoring program is to systematically develop the skills and leadership abilities of the less experienced members of an organization. Lessons learned from previous experience, inspections, and observation must be shared to avoid the proverbial "reinventing of the wheel." This concept is met with little resistance, as most can easily attribute earlier successes to some form of mentorship.

Mentoring programs can be broken down structurally into very specific relationships. Simplifying the categories, I see them in two larger categories: informal and formal.

The informal category has no formal process or structure. A mentor takes on the responsibility (frequently without being directed) of providing

guidance and direction on the best way to complete a task, process or progression. This is the manner that the vast majority of our mentoring is accomplished. These mentors are dedicated professionals who take pride in their work and encourage others to do so as well.

The formal mentoring program is structured and facilitated, and designates a paired mentor and protégé. This is the type specifically laid out in mentoring program guidance, Air Force Policy Directive 36-34, Air Force Instruction 36-3401 and Air Force Reserve Command Pamphlet 36-3401. The necessity to maintain this mandated formal program is occasionally challenged, fueled by the truth that so much of what we do is done informally. These program types are not mutually exclusive. We need informal mentoring. The formal process is established to ensure every member has consistent, regular opportunity to learn

and plan with help from a mentor whom has a deeper understanding. When organizations rely solely on the informal mentoring program to pass on knowledge, someone *will* be left out. This is especially true in the Air Force Reserve, when members are not constantly engaged with their unit counterparts.

Keep in mind two things common to all mentoring program types:

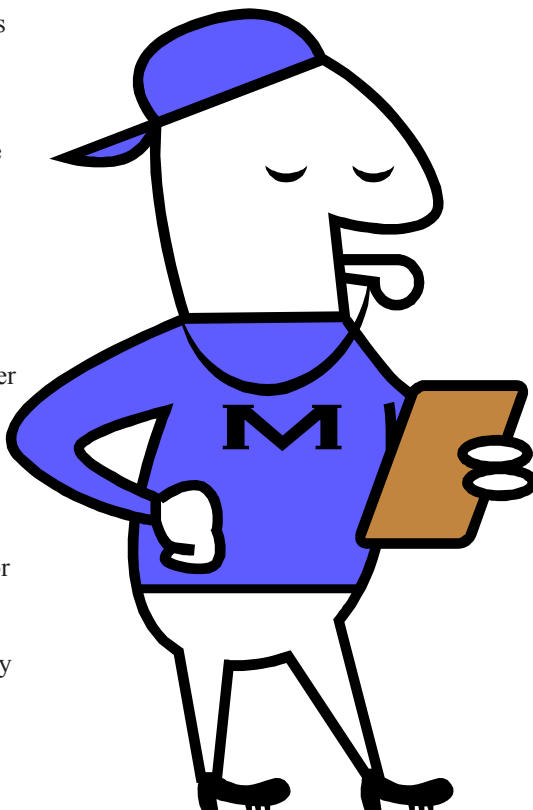
(1) Mentoring is based on future activities, from this point in time forward (as opposed to

performance feedback focusing on past activities), and

(2) mentoring is not "sponsorship," and offers no stated or implied promises of career advancement or special treatment. Mentoring programs do not promise promotion, but prepare the member for the increased responsibility that will come with the next higher rank.

The benefits of a robust, compliant mentoring program are clear and evident each time a Staff Assistance Visit or Unit Compliance Inspection scrutinizes the overall health of a given unit. Protégés benefit by assistance in defining realistic career goals, targeting professional development activities, increased understanding of their organization and increased productivity. The Mentor benefits with a revitalized interest in the organization, growth of leaders resulting from coaching, and an ongoing legacy of knowledge. The unit wins with enhanced leadership capabilities, cost-effective training, motivated members at all levels and, yes - increased productivity.

Sounds like a good place to work, doesn't it? Commanders that support an empowered mentoring program have much to gain. It's the "compound interest" of organizational knowledge. Make it work for you! In upcoming Human Resource Development articles, we will cover extremely dynamic and useful tools to conduct mentoring sessions available on Air Force Portal, Virtual MPF, vPC-GR, and our own 349th Air Mobility Wing mentoring web site.



## UNIT VACANCIES

| AFSC   | AFSC Title              | Grade       | #     | AFSC   | AFSC Title              | Grade     | #   |
|--------|-------------------------|-------------|-------|--------|-------------------------|-----------|-----|
| 11M3A  | Mobility Pilot, C-5     | Officer     | 1     | 3E891  | Explosive Ord Disposal  | SMS/CMSgt | 1/1 |
| 11M3K  | Mobility Pilot, C-17    | Officer     | 2     | 3E951  | Readiness               | SSgt      | 1   |
| 11M3Y  | Mobility Pilot, General | Officer     | 1     | 3P051B | Sec Forces/Combat Arms  | SrA/SSgt  | 1/1 |
| 12M3Y  | Mobility Navigator      | Officer     | 1     | 3S251  | Education & Training    | SSgt      | 7   |
| 1A051  | In Flight Refueling     | SSgt        | 2     | 41A3   | Health Services Admin   | Officer   | 2   |
| 1A151  | Flight Engineer         | SSgt/MSgt   | 4/1   | 44M3   | Internist               | Officer   | 3   |
| 1A251  | Aircraft Loadmaster     | SSgtT//MSgt | 7/2/2 | 44R3B  | Diagnostic Radiologist  | Officer   | 1   |
| 1C351  | Command Post            | SSgt        | 1     | 44Y3   | Critical Care Medicine  | Officer   | 3   |
| 1N051  | Operations Intelligence | SSgtTSgt    | 1/2   | 45A3   | Anesthesiologist        | Officer   | 1   |
| 1N071  | Operations Intelligence | SMSgt       | 1     | 45B3   | Orthopedic Surgeon      | Officer   | 1   |
| 2A551J | Aerospace Maint, C-5    | SSgt        | 7     | 46N3   | Flight Nurse            | Officer   | 2   |
| 2A551L | Aerospace Maint, KC-10  | SSgt        | 1     | 46N3   | Clinical Nurse          | Officer   | 3   |
| 2A571  | Aerospace Maint         | TSgt        | 1     | 46N3E  | Clinical Critical Nurse | Officer   | 5   |
| 2A652  | Aerospace Ground Equip  | SSgt        | 4     | 48A3   | Aerospace Medicine Sp   | Officer   | 2   |
| 2A672  | Aerospace Ground Equip  | TSgt        | 1     | 48R3   | Diagnostic Radiologist  | Officer   | 1   |
| 2T251  | Air Transportation      | SrA/SSgt    | 11/1  | 4A091  | Health Services Mgmt    | SMSgt     | 1   |
| 3C071  | Com-Comp Sys Ops        | TSgt        | 1     | 4N071  | Aerospace Medical Svc   | MSgt      | 1   |
| 3E052  | Electrical Power Prod   | SSgt        | 3     | 4N071C | Aerospace Medical IDMT  | TSgt      | 1   |
| 3E291  | Pave & Const Eqp        | SMSgt       | 1     | 4N091  | Aerospace Medical Svc   | SMSgt     | 2   |
| 3E451  | Utilities Sys           | SSgt        | 2     | 51J3   | Judge Advocate          | Officer   | 1   |
| 3E591  | Engineering             | SMSgt       | 1     | 5J051  | Paralegal               | SSgt      | 3   |
| 3E851  | Explosive Ord Disposal  | SSgt        | 3     | 5J071  | Paralegal               | MSgt      | 1   |

For more information about these vacancies, go to <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afpcsecure/MainMenu.asp>.

## PROMOTIONS



### Senior Master Sergeant

Jeanie D. Surmani, 749th AMXS



### Master Sergeant

Duncan A. Ballantyne, 349th EMS

Mindy R. Runyan, 45th APS

Eric A. Russell, 312th AS

Patrick J. Stevens, 349th CES



### Technical Sergeant

Jennifer L. Bordner, 45th APS

Stacey J. Galbraith, 349th AMDS

David M. Gunkelman, 349th AMXS

Jimmie R. Morris, 349th ASTS

Jason S. Podesta, 349th MDS

Christopher J. Thomas, 349th AMDS

Trevor N. Thompson, 349th AMXS

Robert A. Zumel, 45th APS



### Staff Sergeant

Abraham P. Abilar, 349th ASTS

Kasey G. Baker, 349th AMDS

Frank Cadiz, 349th CES



### Senior Airman

Mychal C. Adams, 45th APS

Larissa F. Brandau, 349th AES

Veronica E. Rivera, 349th AMDS



### Airman First Class

Kristina A. Moody, 349th MDS

Benjamin F. Morgan, 945th AMXS

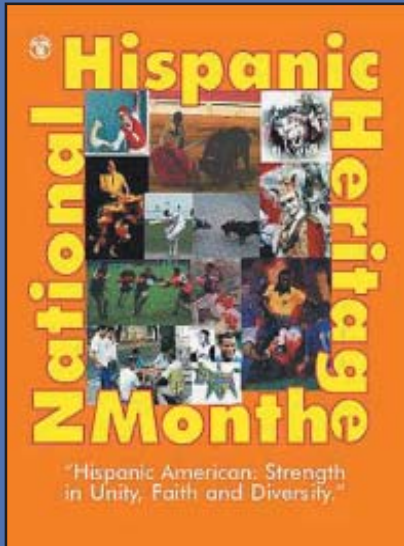


### Airman

Keith L. Kircher, 349th CES

(Enlisted promotions effective Sept. 1, 2008)

**National Hispanic Heritage  
Month runs until Oct. 15**



**This year's theme recognizes the commitment of family values and civic involvement of Hispanic Americans and how their patriotism has helped strengthen our country.**

**T**he Fall Safety Campaign continues the momentum of the 101 Critical Days of Summer and maintains emphasis on motor vehicle safety as well as Back to School, hunting, fire safety and sports & recreation. View the Air Force Safety Center's and the Fall Safety Campaigns at the Air Force Portal web site.

**This month's Fall Safety reminders:**

- **School** is back in session - watch for buses and children walking;
- **Columbus Day** is October 13 and **Veterans Day** is November 11;
- Make provisions to include food in any alcohol related events whether on and off base;
- Do your guests have a plan to get home?;
- **Halloween** is Oct. 31, watch out for trick-or-treaters (see Page 8 for more Halloween Safety Tips);
- **Daylight Saving Time** ends November 2 - make sure you set your clocks back one hour;
- **Thanksgiving** Day is November 27 - travel safely.



**349th AIR MOBILITY WING  
520 WALDRON STREET  
TRAVIS AFB CA 94535-2100  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS**

**T**he 349th Air Mobility Wing welcomes the new Wing Chaplain, Col. Lyle Von Seggern. The wing chaplain goes by "Chaplain Von." Visit the 349th Wing web page at <http://www.349amw.afrc.af.mil> for his full biography.



**Chaplain "Von"**

